

NAVY DEPARTMENT
BUREAU OF NAVIGATION

NO-MAR

WASHINGTON, D. C.

15 October 1923.

BUREAU OF NAVIGATION NEWS BULLETIN NO 32.

The Bureau requests that this Bulletin be given free circulation among officers and that items of interest be published to the enlisted personnel. This Bulletin is NOT confidential and may be destroyed at the discretion of the Commanding Officer. Constructive suggestions for improvement will be appreciated.

REVIEW OF ENLISTED PERSONNEL SITUATION:

1. The Bureau is receiving regular reports from the Training Stations, which indicate a very satisfactory quality in the recruits now being received. For example, 1044 recruits were received at the Newport Training Station between 17 August and 28 September 1923; of this number 987 were manifestly desirable and 14 physically unfit; 43 were relatively undesirable.

The Commandants of the Training Stations are making particular efforts to remove the relatively undesirable features of these men, and a good many of them make good. Those physically undeveloped are given physical exercise and watched over carefully. Where minor operations are involved, such as phimosis, these operations are done.

Another report on the quality of recruits received at the Training Station, Great Lakes, indicates that 136 recruits were received between 20 September and 30 September, 1923. Of this number 128 were manifestly desirable, there were no physically unfit, no relatively undesirable, and only 8 not especially desirable.

The Bureau is well pleased with this excellent showing on the quality of recruits.

2. PROBATION FOR ENLISTED MEN: That the placing of men of the service on probation is often justified is clearly shown by the following statistics compiled by the Bureau:

TABLE SHOWING MEN PLACED ON PROBATION AFTER TRIAL BY
COURT MARTIAL WHO WERE SUCCESSFUL.

| <u>Fiscal Year</u> | <u>G.C.M. Percentage Successful</u> | <u>S.C.M. Percentage Successful</u> |
|--------------------|---|---|
| 1918 | 54 | 88 |
| 1919 | 57 | 86 |
| 1920 | 60 | 87 |
| 1921 | 60 | 79 |
| 1922 | 52 | 86 |
| 1923 | <u>61</u> | <u>65</u> |
| Average for 6 yrs. | 58 | 84 |

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1. ENLISTED PERSONNEL: The following recapitulation showing percentage of expiration of enlistment discharges compared with total losses for the first three months of the Fiscal Year 1924 i.e. July, August and September.

| Character of Loss | JULY | AUGUST | SEPTEMBER | TOTAL |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| Hon. Discharge | 2,159 | 2,348 | 2,076 | 6,583 |
| Ordinary (Rec. for Enl.) | 80 | 51 | 66 | 197 |
| Ordinary (Not Rec. for Enl.) | 10 | 2 | 8 | 20 |
| Entitled to Exp. Enl. Disch. but extended Enl. | 422 | 655 | 540 | 1,617 |
| Inaptitude Disch. | 16 | 21 | 49 | 86 |
| Undesirable Disch. | 161 | 160 | 206 | 527 |
| Bad Conduct Disch. | 121 | 139 | 145 | 405 |
| Dishonorable Disch. | 88 | 82 | 63 | 233 |
| Medical Survey | 103 | 203 | 168 | 474 |
| Spec. Order Disch. | 103 | 105 | 100 | 308 |
| Deserted | 783 | 923 | 869 | 2,575 |
| Transferred P.N.R. | 33 | 53 | 42 | 128 |
| Cancelled | 21 | 27 | 22 | 70 |
| Retired | 2 | 3 | 5 | 10 |
| Died | 21 | 16 | 46 | 83 |
| GRAND TOTAL | 4,123 | 4,788 | 4,405 | 13,316 |
| Total Exp. of Enl. Discharges (Enlistments of those extended included as Exp. Enl. Disch.) | 2,661 | 3,054 | 2,682 | 8,397 |
| Percentage Exp. of Enl. Disch of total losses | .645% | .637% | .608% | .630% |

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The following table relative to deserters for the fiscal year to 17 October is brought to the attention of the Service:

| Month | Total Desertions | Returned Sur. & Del. | Net Desertions | % Return |
|------------|---------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| July | 783 | 347 | 436 | 45 |
| August | 923 | 330 | 593 | 36 |
| Sept. | 869 | 456 | 403 | 53 |
| To 17 Oct. | 389 | 277 | 112 | 71 |

This increase in the number of deserters returned as indicated in the October report is gratifying in view of the steps that have been taken to secure men who desert.

It should be brought to the attention of all men that this large percentage of deserters are returned to the service and brought to trial by court-martial. This information should be used to advantage in checking desertions by bringing to the attention of the men that so large a proportion of deserters are brought to punishment for the offense.

The following statistics showing the educational training of enlisted men per thousand, prior to entering the Service, is of interest as indicating the higher educational qualification of men now being enlisted:

| | | |
|------------------------------------|---|-------------|
| Less than 7th grade grammar school | - | 107 |
| Finished " " " | - | 125 |
| " 8th " " | - | 303 |
| " 1 yr. high school | - | 146 |
| " 2 yrs. " " | - | 138 |
| " 3 yrs. " " | - | 85 |
| Graduated from " " | - | 74 |
| " and taken higher course | = | 22 |
| | | <u>1000</u> |

The attention of the service is called to the fact that many men are discharged whose records show that they are considered qualified for the next higher rating and who are recommended for reenlistment in the next higher rating. These men naturally apply to be reenlisted in the rating for which recommended and are dissatisfied when they are refused on account of not having been examined. As there may be considerable delay in examining the men upon reenlistment and assignment to duty, they are often deprived of promotion for which qualified for several months. It is believed that a considerable number of reenlistments

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are lost in this way, and it is requested that particular care be taken to examine short-timers who are considered qualified for advancement.

The following letter from a high official of the Chicago and Alton Railroad Co. to the Commandant of the Great Lakes Training Station is quoted for the information of the service:

"It has been my pleasure to have accompanied two parties of sailors over the Chicago and Alton Railroad from Chicago. Perhaps it would interest you to know that the deportment of these men was 100%. Inasmuch as I handled troop trains for several months during the War I believe that I am a fair judge of what constitutes good deportment, both in the Army and Navy, and I assure you that never has it been my pleasure to accompany a more gentlemanly crowd than these two parties.

"You are to be complimented on the training they must have received while at Great Lakes, as it surely has left its impression with the men as was shown by their actions after leaving Great Lakes Station."

The Bureau is pleased and gratified to receive such an excellent report as this, which clearly indicates the high quality and standards of these recruits.

MISCELLANEOUS. The Bureau has received from Lieut. Comdr. J. L. King, U.S.S. BILLINGSLEY, an excellent course of instruction, illustrated by colored diagrams, on the subject of refrigeration.

The Bureau appreciates the excellent work done by Lieut. Comdr. King, and the course of instruction will be incorporated in the Navy Instruction Courses.

The academic term at the Naval Academy commenced 1 October 1923 with the largest number of midshipmen ever at the Academy at one time, by classes as follows:

| | |
|-------------------------|------------|
| 1st. Class | 531 |
| 2d. " | 501 |
| 3d. " | 581 |
| 4th " | <u>885</u> |
| Total | 2498 |

As a result of a preliminary examination of candidates for midshipmen from enlisted personnel, the following is the number that will begin instruction on 1 November at the special preparatory schools at

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the Naval Training Stations at Hampton Roads, Virginia and San Diego, California:

Naval Training Station, Hampton Roads, Va.

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----------|
| Enlisted Men of the Navy | 128 |
| Marines | <u>14</u> |

Total142

Naval Training Station, San Diego, Calif.

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------|
| Enlisted Men of the Navy..... | 69 |
| Marines..... | <u>2</u> |

Total..... 71

TOTAL213

The course of instruction will continue until 16 April 1924, when the competitive examination will be held. The one hundred passing the highest in the examination will receive appointments as midshipmen, should that number qualify.

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No data is available to show percentage of men who remain in good standing after successfully completing period of probation.

3. MISCELLANEOUS: If the Navy is recruited up to the full strength of 86,000 by 1 January 1924; and it is believed it will be, the following shows the estimated number of recruits required to maintain full strength for the first six months of next calendar year. This means QUALITY recruits.

| | |
|-------------|-------------|
| January | 1543 |
| February | 1478 |
| March | 1462 |
| April | 1458 |
| May | 1528 |
| June | <u>1621</u> |
| TOTAL | 9090 |

At the time of the establishment of the Navy Motion Picture Exchange, the Bureau was able to enter into very advantageous contracts with practically all the big motion picture producers. These contracts have been so advantageous to the Navy that little or no profit has been made by the producers. The Bureau is using every effort to increase the efficiency and entertainment value of the motion picture service. The Exchange has expanded since its establishment; improved methods of circulation have been put into effect; and today practically all activities showing motion pictures use the Navy Exchange.

The Bureau has recently inaugurated a system for the purchase of duplicate prints of all pictures obtained. The estimated revenue for the current fiscal year will allow for the purchase of 20 duplicate prints each month. Heretofore, when 30 single prints were obtained, it was necessary to circulate 15 of these prints to the activities on the Atlantic Coast and 15 on the Pacific Coast. Having gone through their initial circuits these prints were usually found to be physically unfit for further exhibition. With duplicate prints, the number of new pictures per month in circulation will be increased by 5.

One of the largest producers in the country has recently informed the Bureau that it is unwilling to renew its contract at its expiration next December. This Company complains that some Navy activities are renting their films from commercial exchanges which thus obtain an advantage in price over the service furnished the Navy by them, and they informed the Bureau that they cannot see their way clear to this continued loss of revenue. Every effort will be made to renew this contract, but if the practice of renting from commercial agents direct is not discontinued, other producers are liable to follow.

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The Bureau has constantly attempted, through various means, to encourage the use of the Navy Motion Picture Exchange by all Navy and Marine activities because it is only with whole-hearted support of the entire service that the Navy Motion Picture Exchange can exist. The greater the number of Navy activities that use the Exchange, the greater will be the revenue derived and increased entertainment will naturally follow.

Complaints come to the Bureau of the poor quality of the Navy Movies, but the Bureau doubts whether it would be possible for the same people to see as high an order of pictures - night in and night out - as the Navy can give them. Out of the 45 shows on Broadway, the present month, 37 have been purchased by the Bureau of Navigation.

4. NAVAL RESERVE ACTIVITIES: The Navy Department has authorized the Commandant of the Naval Training Station, Great Lakes, Illinois to establish a Naval Reserve Aviation Unit at Great Lakes. One qualified Naval Aviator and four enlisted men of the Naval Reserve Force will be called to active duty for service with this Unit.